

[22 February, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Import of edible oil

*25. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of various edible oils imported during the last five years, year-wise together with the name of the originating countries; and

(b) the indigenous production of edible oil during the above period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) According to available information, the quantity of edible oils imported during the last five years was as under:

Year (Nov.—Oct.)	Quantity (in lakh MTs)
1995-96	11.61
1996-97	12.83
1997-98	18.68
1998-99	38.59
1999-2000	34.55

SOURCE: DGCIS, Ministry of Commerce

The countries from where the oils were imported were Malaysia, Indonesia, Brazil, Argentina, South Africa, USA, Australia, etc.

(b) As per available information, the production of edible oils in the country during the last five years was as under:—

Year	Production of oilseeds (in lakh MTs)	Production of edible oils (net availability) (in lakh MTs)
1995-96	221.1	64.2
1996-97	243.8	70.9
1997-98	213.2	60.3
1998-99	252.1	70.8
1999-2000	211.8	62.2

Permanent seat for India in Security Council

*26. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) out of the five Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council how many have directly or indirectly indicated their support for a permanent seat for India; and

(b) how many of the rest of the Members of the Council have pledged seat to India in the UNO permanently?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Of the permanent members of the UN Security Council, Russia and France have consistently supported India's candidature for permanent membership of an expanded UN Security Council. France has stated that India is naturally destined to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and that France supports and will support Indian candidature. Russia has stated that the Russian Federation considers India a strong and worthy candidate for a permanent membership seat in the Security Council should it be decided to enlarge the Council in both categories. A US official has expressed that "there is no question that India is a very strong contender for permanent membership of the